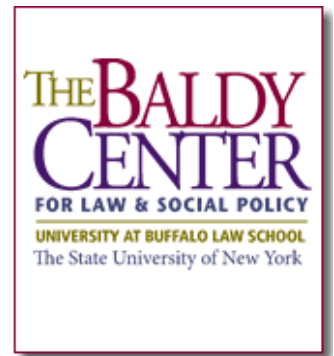


The Baldy Center Working Group on
International and Comparative Legal Studies
Invites you to a
Work-in-Progress luncheon presentation

Monday, March 5, 2007
12:00 – 2:00 pm, 509 O'Brian Hall



Shaun Irlam

Chair, UB Comparative Literature

Probing Darkness in Rwanda: Genocide & Gacaca

Shaun Irlam, Chair of the UB Department of Comparative Literature, made his first visit to Rwanda in 2006 to pursue his current project on the Rwandan genocide and the quest for justice through the mechanism of the gacaca courts. This work takes a comparative look at other models of reconciliation, most notably the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, the various narratives of witness and representation that strive to convey the magnitude of the genocide, and some of the legal challenges that the very magnitude of genocide as a crime poses, what might be dubbed, "the juridical sublime."

Shaun Irlam grew up in Cape Town, South Africa and holds an M.A. in English literature from the University of Cape Town. He completed a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the Humanities Center of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. His teaching and research interests include 18th-century literature and culture in England and France, current critical theory with an emphasis on deconstruction, and postcolonial literature and theory with emphasis on Caribbean and African literatures. More recently, he has combined that prior research on forms of fanaticism and millennial consciousness in early modern Europe with his research in postcolonial Africa to examine the cultural imaginaries and social mythologies that enabled the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Professor Irlam has been conducting UB's summer Study Abroad program in Africa since 1992—a program that takes students to Senegal, South Africa and Namibia.

RSVP for lunch to ekausner@buffalo.edu